

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 /079 W
-----074102 011100Z /11

R 010542Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1415
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
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USAFE, USAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, GW
SUBJECT:
"RUSSELL TRIBUNAL" OR THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FRG

1. AFTER ONE AND A HALF YEARS OF AGITATION AND A LITTLE
OVER A YEAR SINCE THERUSSELL PEACE FOUNDATION WITH HOME
OFFICES IN NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND, GAVE ITS OFFICIAL
BLESSING, THE SO-CALLED "THIRD RUSSELL TRIBUNAL", WHICH
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HAS AS ITS SUBJECT THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
FRG, BEGAN ITS "PROCEEDINGS" IN THE OUTLYING HARHEIM
DISTRICT OF FRANKFURT ON MARCH 29.

2. THE PRELIMINARIES TO THIS AFFAIR WERE MARKED BY
CONSIDERABLE QUARRELS AMONG THE LARGE ASSORTMENT OF
VARIOUS LEFT-WING MARXIST AND RADICAL GROUPS

CONSTITUTING THE ORIGINAL BACKERS -- QUARRELS WHICH PERSIST TO SOME EXTENT EVEN AS THE "TRIBUNAL" GETS UNDERWAY. FOLLOWING AN INITIAL PREPARATORY MEETING IN FRANKFURT IN LATE MARCH OF 1977 A NUMBER OF EXTREME LEFT RADICAL GROUPS WITHDREW FROM THE OPERATION. ANOTHER MEETING IN HAMBURG IN EARLY MAY OF 1977 PARTIALLY HEALED THE BREACH AND A SECRETARIAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN WEST BERLIN ON JUNE 6, 1977. A SECOND SOMEWHAT CHAOTIC PREPARATORY MEETING TOOK PLACE IN GOETTINGEN AT THE END OF OCTOBER LAST YEAR. THE UPSHOT OF ALL THESE QUARRELSOME PRELIMINARIES WAS A DECISION THAT THE CURRENT FIRST SESSION OF THE "TRIBUNAL" IN FRANKFURT/HARHEIM WOULD ADDRESS THE ALLEGED PROHIBITION AGAINST CONDUCT OF PROFESSIONS (BERUFSVERBOTE) SUPPOSEDLY PURSUED IN THE FRG WHILE THE SECOND SESSION IN JANUARY 1979 IS TO DEAL WITH THE CONDITION OF "POLITICAL" PRISONERS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. REFUSAL OF THE "TRIBUNAL" TO DEAL WITH THE LATTER TOPIC AT THIS TIME AND WITH SUFFICIENT VIGOR IS THE ISSUE ON WHICH SOME OF THE VARIOUS EXTREME BACKERS OF THE PROJECT HAVE SPLIT WITH THE OTHER. PRINCIPAL CURRENT GERMAN ORGANIZERS ARE THE KOMMUNISTISCHE BUND, THE SOCIALIST BUREAU OF OFFENBACH, THE GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL MARXISTS (GIM) JOINED BY JUSOS AND SOME JUDOS (DESPITE EFFORTS TO PREVENT THIS) AS WELL AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

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3. JUST WHO ARE AND WHAT CONSTITUTES THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY OF THE "THIRD RUSSELL TRIBUNAL" IS MURKY AT BEST. IN ANY EVENT IT HAS NOW BEGUN ITS PROCEDURES AT HARHEIM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF YUGOSLAV PROFESSOR VLADIMIR DEDIJER AND OTHERWISE CONSISTS OF AN ASSORTMENT OF PERSONALITIES OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES RANGING FROM LEFT-WING MEMBERS OF THE "WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY OF ALIENATED INTELLECTUALS" TO KNOWN COMMUNISTS SUCH AS LOMBARDO-RADICE AND UGO TERRACINI OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. OTHERS INCLUDE CLAUDE BOURDET, GEORGE

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CASALIS, ANDRE JEANSON (FRANCE) AS WELL AS LORD GIFFORD,
RUTH GLASS AND TREVOR GRIFFITHS (UK). A FEW, INCLUDING
MAJOR DE CARVALHO OF PORTUGAL AND FORMER GAULLIST
DEPUTY ROUSSETT OF FRANCE, WHILE LISTED AS MEMBERS OF
THE "JURY" MADE THEIR APPOLOGIES AND DID NOT APPEAR.

4. THE OPENING OF THE PROCEEDINGS THIS WEEK WERE
PRECEDED BY CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY, SOME INITIATED BY
THE SPONSORS INCLUDING A FOUR-PAGE AD IN THE FRANKFURTER
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RUNDSCHAU PURCHASED AT A COST OF 79,000 DMS, AND SOME
PROVIDED GRATUITOUSLY BY HEAVY CRITICAL COMMENT
THROUGHOUT THE GERMAN PRESS AS WELL AS THE SHARPLY CRITICAL
STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY NUMEROUS GERMAN
POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING ALL THREE MAJOR PARTIES,
AS WELL AS HEINZ VETTER, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN TRADE
UNION ASSOCIATION (DGB) AMONG OTHERS. FOLLOWING AN
INITIAL EXPLAANATION OF ITS PURSPOSES AND PROCEDURES,
THE "TRIBUNAL" IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING
INDIVIDUAL CASES IN WHICH GERMANS HAVE SUPPOSEDLY BEEN
PREVENTED FROM EXERCISING THEIR PROFESSION BECAUSE

OF THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS. THE CASES EXAMINED INVOLVE MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY (DKB) WHO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF GERMAN LEGISLATION AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT OF RADICALS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE. THE SESSION IN HARHEIM WILL END ON APRIL 3 AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SERIES OF SO-CALLED POLITICO-CULTURAL EVENTS IN FRANKFURT, BONN, STUTTGART, HAMBURG, NUREMBERG AND BREMEN. MEMBERS OF THE "JURY" AND THE GERMAN ADVISORY COUNCIL WILL MAKE APPEARANCES ON THESE OCCASIONS.

5. THE CHOICE OF LOCATION FOR THE "TRIBUNAL" HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE AND CONSTERNATION TO THE CITIZENS OF HARHEIM WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY PETITIONED THE CITY AUTHORITY TO BAN THE ENTIRE AFFAIR. THE FEARS OF THE CITIZENS OF HARHEIM THAT THE "TRIBUNAL" WOULD BRING UNREST TO THEIR COMMUNITY OF 4,000 WERE AT LEAST PARTIALLY JUSTIFIED WHEN A GROUP OF ABOUT 40 SUPPORTERS OF THE RED ARMY FACTION, FOR WHOM THE "TRIBUNALS" PROCEEDINGS ARE TO BE HELD, OCCUPIED THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN HARHEIM WHERE THEY REMAIN AT THIS TIME. THE CHURCH OCCUPATION HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEELING IN THE COMMUNITY AND A POLICE EFFORT HAS BEEN MOBILIZED TO PREVENT DISTURBANCES.

6. WHILE THE "TRIBUNAL" AND THE MEMBERS OF THE "JURY" ARE MAKING A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO MAKE A PRETENSE OF OBJECTIVITY AND NO PRIOR BIAS, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT ITS CONCLUSIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REACHED AND WHAT REALLY REMAINS TO BE DONE IN BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND SESSIONS IS TO FORMULATE THEM INTO WORDS WHICH MIGHT IMPRESS THE GUILTY. THAT, AFTER ALL HAS BEEN THE RECORD OF PREVIOUS "RUSSELL TRIBUNALS". LEHMANN

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